

PICKING UP THE PIECES: CONTEMPORARY COLLAGE AND CONSTRUCTION **July 30 – October 8, 2006**

Southern California's rich history of collage as an expressive medium for contemporary artists is displayed in a new exhibition at the William D. Cannon Art Gallery. *Picking Up the Pieces: Contemporary Collage and Construction* presents works by a group of eight artists who expand the traditional boundaries of the art form known as collage. The exhibition is on view from July 30 through October 8; the Cannon Art Gallery is located at 1775 Dove Lane off El Camino Real and is open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays.

Picking Up the Pieces offers works by Southern California artists Tony Berlant, J.J. L'Heureux, Kim MacConnell, Roxene Rockwell, Genie Shenk, Michael Madzo, Doris Bittar and Maritta Tapanainen – all artists who redefine and expand the established notions of collage. Narrowly defined, collage is the construction of images through the deceptively simple act of pasting cut and torn papers – thus creating a new work of art from imagery and materials that already existed. Collage, derived from the French word *coller*, is a mode of perception, a multi-dimensional language that first emerged as a fine art medium in the pasted papers of the Cubists Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso. Since then, masters of collage such as Kurt Schwitters, Hannah Hoch, Marcel Duchamp and Joseph Cornell changed the face of Modernism by asserting that art could be made from almost anything, not just torn papers.

The eight contemporary artists in the Cannon Art Gallery's current exhibition are united by a love for unconventional imagery and the ability to recognize beauty and humor in simple scraps and refuse. By incorporating recycled materials with direct relevance to our present environment – fragments of cloth, tin, wood, food wrappers, computer-generated imagery and photographs – these artists establish a familiar link between our surroundings, the viewer and the work of art. They not only create a second life for these things, but also transform inelegant, disparate materials into bearers of multiple meanings. A 24-page, full-color catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

On Saturday, September 30, from 11:00am until 2:00pm, Family Open Studio will take place, a free art-making workshop for the whole family. After a tour through the Gallery, an art activity related to *Picking Up the Pieces* and suited to all ages is presented in the outdoor Courtyard, assisted by professional artist/instructors. All materials and workspace are provided. No reservations are needed and participants may arrive and depart at will. Family Open Studios are supported by the Plein Air Brunch Fund of the Carlsbad Friends of the Arts.

A program of the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Office, the William D. Cannon Art Gallery is a focal point for arts and culture in San Diego's North County, offering a broad range of exhibitions, school and family programs, gallery tours, lectures and publications to the community. It is located at 1775 Dove Lane off El Camino Real and is open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays. For information on the exhibition and all Gallery programs, contact the Carlsbad Arts Info Line 760-434-2904 or the Gallery 760-602-2021 or visit www.carlsbadca.gov/arts.